

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, JO, XF

SUBJ: SECVISIT: MEDIA REACTION TO SAUDI ARABIA, EGYPT, SYRIA VISIT

1. SUMMARY: HEAVY REPORTING CONTINUES ON SECVISIT TO MIDEAST
EMPHASIZING UPBEAT STATEMENT BY SECRETARY IN CAIRO. END SUMMARY.

2. JORDANIAN PRESS OCTOBER 15 RAN HEAVY COVERAGE SECVISIT TO
CAIRO. FRONT PAGE HEADLINES: AR-RAYY: "THE TOTAL YIELD OF
KISSINGER'S MIDEAST TOUR: POSITIVE SIGNS OF PROGRESS TOWARDS
PEACE". AD-DUSTOUR: KISSINGER TO RETURN TO MIDEAST NEXT MONTH;
"DID KISSINGER SUGGEST THE TERMINATION OF BELLIGERANCY"; AL-
URDON: KISSINGER, AFTER HIS SECOND VISIT TO DAMASCUS AND CAIRO
SAYS: "THERE ARE POSITIVE SIGNS WHICH LEAD TO PEACE".

3. GOVERNMENT SPONSORED AR-RAYY REPORTED: OBSERVERS INTERPRET
INTENTION OF MR. KISSINGER TO RETURN NEXT MONTH TO AREA AS SIGN
HE ARRIVED AT COMPROMISE SOLUTION BETWEEN RESUMPTION OF GENEVA
MEPC AND AMERICAN PROPOSAL TO MOVE BILATERAL CONVERSATIONS TO
WASHINGTON. IT SEEMS THAT CONSENSUS HAS BEEN REACHED TO CONTINUE
SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY AMONG CAPITALS CONCERNED. AMERICAN OFFICIALS
CLOSE TO KISSINGER POINTED OUT TENTATIVE AGREEMENTS HAVE
BEEN REACHED, BUT REFRAINED FROM BEING SPECIFIC. AR-RAYY
QUOTES NEWS AGENCIES THAT COMING KISSINGER VISIT WILL FOCUS
ON FIRM PRINCIPLES FOR PEACE AND ON NEW ISRAELI WITHDRAWALS
IN EXCHANGE FOR ARAB POLITICAL CONCESSIONS. KISSINGER OBTAINED
UNEXPECTED BACKING FROM SAUDI ARABIA FOR PEACE EFFORTS PLUS
FOR EFFORTS TO LOWER OIL PRICES. MENTIONED SAQQAF STRESSED
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SAUDI ARABIA WILL NOT ALTER POSITION ON NECESSITY OF RETURN

OF ARAB JERUSALEM.

4. AL-URDON EDITORIAL ENTITLED "WHAT...AFTER KISSINGER'S LATEST TOUR"...STATES "IT IS CLEAR THAT KISSINGER HAS THE IMPRESSION THAT A FULL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL OCCUPIED ARAB LANDS IS THE ONLY SOLUTION TO THE PEACE PROBLEM, BE THIS REALIZED THROUGH SETTLEMENT-BY-STAGES OR THROUGH COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE...THE APPROPRIATE AND NATURAL PLACE TO DECIDE THE ISSUE AS A WHOLE".

5. AL-SABAH WRITES THAT KISSINGER VISIT TO THE MIDDLE EAST HAS ENDED, LEAVING THE AREA IN A NEW STATE OF UNCERTAINTY. DESPITE OPTIMISM, INDICATIONS ARE THAT KISSINGER HAS LEFT FROM WHERE HE STARTED AND ENDED IN HIS PREVIOUS TOUR.

6. PLO AT UNGA:
ONLY SPARSE PRESS REPORTS ON PLO INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN UNGA. INSTEAD, PRESS HIGHLIGHTED SADAT STATEMENT TO DER SPEIGEL THAT PLO DOES NOT REPRESENT PALESTINIANS IN JORDAN. PICKERING

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